

ew  
Yes

DIA

## NEAR EAST

Iraq:

## Reining In Foreign Media [REDACTED]

(b)(3)

*Baghdad's expulsion of foreign journalists yesterday shows Saddam's extreme sensitivity to exposing domestic weakness that foreign or domestic opponents could exploit.* Baghdad ordered a number of foreign journalists, particularly US journalists, to leave Iraq next week and plans to impose strict new regulations that limit visiting journalists to 10-day stays,

(b)(3)

— Journalists in Baghdad say Iraqi officials are upset by reporting on the unprecedented antigovernment demonstration by Iraqis searching for relatives missing after the massive prisoner release last Sunday.

— [REDACTED] Baghdad expelled dozens of Western reporters shortly after coalition forces liberated Kuwait in February 1991, probably to prevent reporting on Iraq's defeat and instability in Iraq. [REDACTED]

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(b)(3)

*Because Saddam is trying to build international opposition to military action against Iraq and is relying on media coverage that helps him achieve that aim, the reduced media presence probably will be temporary.* [REDACTED]

(b)(3)

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

*Given Saddam's past record of public relations blunders, particularly during the Gulf crisis of 1990-91, the backfiring of the prisoner release is not likely to deter him from trying other crude tactics to shore up support and defy his enemies.* [REDACTED]

(b)(3)